

PUBLIC SAFETY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

DATE: May 2, 2007

CALLED TO ORDER: 5:35 p.m.

ADJOURNED: 6:24 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Attending Members

Mary Moriarty Adams, Chair
Vernon Brown
Sherron Franklin
Lynn McWhirter
William Oliver
Lincoln Plowman
Cherrish Pryor

Absent Members

Scott Schneider

AGENDA

PROPOSAL NO. 193, 2007 - approves an increase of \$17,550 in the 2007 Budget of the Department of Public Safety, Animal Care and Control Division (Consolidated County Fund), to purchase dog beds and mobile cat cages for the animal shelter and pay for bus and billboard advertising for a public awareness campaign, financed by private donations and a transfer between characters

“Do Pass”

Vote: 6-0

PROPOSAL NO. 211, 2007 - approves an increase of \$429,033 in the 2007 Budget of the Marion County Prosecutor (User Fee Diversion, Deferral Program Fee and County General Funds) to pay for staff salaries and benefits for certain employees in the Community Prosecution Division, to fund 2007 pay increases for grant-funded positions, and to purchase vehicles for the Adult Protective Services Unit, funded by fund balance, a bequest and a transfer between funds

“Do Pass”

Vote: 7-0

Presentation on Additional Grant for Community Corrections – Brian Barton, Director of Community Corrections

PUBLIC SAFETY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

The Public Safety and Criminal Justice Committee of the City-County Council met on Wednesday, May 2, 2007. Chair Mary Moriarty Adams called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. with the following members present: Vernon Brown, Sherron Franklin, Lynn McWhirter, William Oliver, and Cherrish Pryor. Shortly thereafter Councillor Lincoln Plowman arrived. Absent was Scott Schneider.

PROPOSAL NO. 193, 2007 - approves an increase of \$17,550 in the 2007 Budget of the Department of Public Safety, Animal Care and Control Division (Consolidated County Fund), to purchase dog beds and mobile cat cages for the animal shelter and pay for bus and billboard advertising for a public awareness campaign, financed by private donations and a transfer between characters

Steve Talley, Animal Care and Control Division (ACCD), said the requested \$15,750 will be distributed as follows: \$10,000 from the dedicated Animal Care donation fund and, \$5,750 from the Animal Control special projects fund. The funds will be used to pay for bus and billboard advertisement costs. This will result in better educating the public on new and current Animal Control laws and penalties. In addition, the proposal includes a request to reallocate current funds in the amount of \$10,000 to purchase animal supplies and to cover community outreach and shelter costs. He said these funds will be moved from Character 03 and 04 to Character 02.

Councillor Brown asked if these funds are donations. Terri Falker, Department of Public Safety, Chief Financial Officer, replied in the affirmative and said the donations are put into a fund and dedicated for a certain purpose. The funds are not taxpayer dollars.

Councillor Oliver moved, seconded by Councillor Pryor, to send Proposal No. 193, 2007 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

[Clerk's note: Councillor Plowman arrived at 5:40 p.m.]

PROPOSAL NO. 211, 2007 - approves an increase of \$429,033 in the 2007 Budget of the Marion County Prosecutor (User Fee Diversion, Deferral Program Fee and County General Funds) to pay for staff salaries and benefits for certain employees in the Community Prosecution Division, to fund 2007 pay increases for grant-funded positions, and to purchase vehicles for the Adult Protective Services Unit, funded by fund balance, a bequest and a transfer between funds

Lisa Bentley, Chief of Operations, Prosecutor's Office, stated that several items were being requested in this proposal. When the 2007 three percent(3%) pay raise for all city and county employees was approved by the council, the funding of the three percent (3%) increase for the Prosecutor's grant paid employees was not included in their budget. The

Prosecutor's Office needs to pay the three percent to these employees and requested that this amount be put into their budget through an appropriation of the fund balance in the Deferral Program Fee Fund. They also received a donation of \$10,000, which will purchase a vehicle for an investigator. In addition, they are requesting \$10,000 for another vehicle. She said in budgeting for their Community Prosecution Division they only took into account the Burn Grant they received in the amount of \$200,000. This is in the same year that an additional roll call site was added. She said an additional appropriation is needed to continue prosecution programs at the additional roll call sites. Ms. Bentley added that Community Prosecutors are also serving in the excluded cities.

David Wyser, Prosecutor's Office, said they previously had five Deputy Prosecutors for Community Prosecution, and two additional prosecutors were added last year due to serving the excluded cities and the creation of a new site by the police merger.

Councillor Franklin asked who funds prosecutors to work in the excluded cities. Mr. Wisner said those areas are incorporated in Marion County, and any crime committed in those jurisdictions are prosecuted in Marion County. Councillor Franklin asked if Marion County is collecting any revenue from excluded cities. Ms. Bentley said the excluded cities are contributing space for the prosecutors and support staff.

Mr. Wyser said it does not make a difference what law enforcement agency handles a crime. If a crime is committed in Marion County they are required to prosecute.

Councillor Pryor asked what the duties are for the Community Prosecutor. Michelle Waymire, Community Prosecutor, said their duties are to screen cases for detectives on-site, prosecute cases of interest to their neighborhoods, attend neighborhood meetings, and strategize with law enforcement officers and community residents.

Yvonne Margedant, Neighborhood Coordinator for Southeast Umbrella Organization (SUMO), said she has learned that behind every drug bust or murder there was a pattern of other behaviors that were in the shadows. She said by working with the Community Prosecutors they are able to enter into quality of life issues. Ms. Markidon said the community benefits greatly from this system.

Rosie Stockdale, citizen, said the Community Prosecutors give the residents a direct link and voice in what is important to the community. She said this is one of the better programs that the City gives, and it provides residents with hope.

Pat Burn, citizen, said she is concerned about the quality of life in her neighborhood, and the Prosecutor's Office allows citizens to work on improving their neighborhood. She said they need this program to keep communication going.

Cecilia Dotson, citizen, said the neighborhood really needs the Community Prosecutors' help. They assist with the apartment problems on the east side and help with communication between apartment management. She added that the Community Prosecutors not only assist in legal matters, but in other ways in the neighborhood

Waldine Anderson, citizen, said she has been working with the Community Prosecutors since 1994, and all have been wonderful and of great help. She said she is very grateful for their work and they are desperately needed in the community.

Councillor McWhirter moved, seconded by Councillor Brown, to send Proposal No. 211, 2007 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

Presentation on Additional Grant for Community Corrections – Brian Barton, Director of Community Corrections

Mr. Barton said this additional grant was left out of the plan, because the application indicated a one year grant and is not a continual program that they were going to continue to fund. He said the Controller's Office noticed the grant was left out and informed his office. Mr. Barton said he is seeking the committee's approval for the submission of the evaluation proposal to the National Institute of Correction. He said this proposal will assess their programs, operations, and implementation of practices, assess the agency management operation of programming, and assess the design, delivery, and management of staff programming.

Chair Moriarty Adams asked for a motion to submit the evaluation proposal to the National Institute of Correction, where they will audit Community Corrections' programs.

Councillor Pryor asked if there is a charge to audit. Mr. Barton said he does not believe there will be a charge; however, if they need additional funding, the Department of Corrections (DOC) has indicated they will assist.

Councillor Pryor moved, seconded by Councillor McWhirter, to have the National Institute of Correction evaluate Community Corrections' programs. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

Christina Ball, Juvenile Probation, said the Community Transition Program is specifically aimed at reducing the recommitment rate of youth going back to DOC. The program provides home based therapeutic services to both the youth and family during the time the youth is at DOC and after their release. She said state-wide the recommitted rate to

DOC is 19%. In Marion County, in 2004, the rate was close to 25%. The youth are also assigned a mentor during their time at DOC and after their release. Ms. Ball said one of the benefits is that youth actually serve the last 60 days of their sentence in the community, which allows the County to avoid the \$60-a-day cost. The initial results of the first few months of operation have been very positive. She said not one youth participating in the program was returned to DOC during their first grant period. In addition the County was able to avoid almost \$170,000 in DOC expenses. Ms. Ball directed the committee to a handout with statistics (Exhibit A, attached).

Councillor Franklin asked if this program could have benefited from the \$1,000,000 that was not used last year and sent back to DOC. Mr. Barton said that \$1,000,000 was on the adult side of Community Corrections.

Councillor Brown said he is in favor of this program, as it provides therapy and counseling for the youth and family and decreases the chance of youth being recommitted to the Juvenile Justice System.

Councillor McWhirter asked if the child is chosen for the program when they enter DOC. Ms. Ball said the service is ordered at the time of disposition. Councillor McWhirter asked if it depends on the youth's offense if they are provided with the service. Ms. Ball said all youth sent to DOC are eligible for the program.

Councillor Oliver asked what service providers are working with youth and family after they are released. Ms. Ball said they have three contracts with service providers: Indiana Juvenile Justice Task Force, Children's Bureau, and CHOICES. Aftercare for Indiana through Mentoring (AIM) is providing mentoring services.

Chair Moriarty Adams asked for a motion to add this grant to Community Corrections plan that will go before DOC.

Councillor Brown moved, seconded by Councillor Oliver, to add the Transition Program grant to the Community Corrections Plan. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

Leslie Fatum, ACCD, shared drafts of the posters and billboards on the new law changes in Animal Control. She said the ads will be out for the remainder of the year.

Councillor Brown asked if Animal Control is open during the hours of 11 p.m. to 6 a.m. Ms. Fatum said Animal Control typically has up to two officers on the street between those times. She added that in most cases, they try to work with people and issue citations.

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Councillor Franklin asked if the new law change includes the excluded cities. Ms. Fatum replied in the negative and said it only covers the area where they have jurisdiction.

With no further business pending, and upon motion duly made, the Public Safety and Criminal Justice Committee of the City-County Council was adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Moriarty Adams, Chair
Public Safety and Criminal Justice Committee